



## NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release:  
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### **Kitten in Ward County Tests Positive for Rabies**

#### ***North Dakota Department of Health Urges People Who Were Exposed To Seek Medical Care***

BISMARCK, N.D. – The North Dakota Department of Health today announced that a kitten in Ward County has tested positive for rabies. As a result, the Department of Health is urging that people who were bitten, scratched or had any other type of exposure to the saliva of the rabid kitten on or after Sept. 27, 2006, contact their health-care provider about receiving post-exposure medication.

On Oct. 5, 2006, two small kittens, one black and one grey, were found near Logan, N.D., on County Road 19 in Ward County. The black kitten died over the weekend and subsequently tested positive for rabies.

“Rabies is a serious disease,” said State Epidemiologist Kirby Kruger. “That’s why it’s vital that anyone exposed to this rabid kitten seek medical care. Treatment is available.”

Rabies can be transmitted to humans through the bites, scratches and other contact with saliva of a rabid animal. Petting or holding the kitten does not constitute an exposure.

More information about rabies can be found at [www.health.state.nd.us/disease/rabies](http://www.health.state.nd.us/disease/rabies).

People who have questions about possible contact with the kitten may call the North Dakota Department of Health at 800.472.2180 or First District Health Unit at 701.721.0314. Members of the media may call Kirby Kruger, North Dakota Department of Health, at 701.328.4549.

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